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Message Text

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14
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 /070 W
---------- 054929
R 290730Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1190
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SECOND RELEASE OF POSTWAR DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS

REF: TOKYO 8419

SUMMARY: THE FONOFF JULY 26-27 RELEASED A SECOND TRANCHE OF IMMEDIATE POSTWAR FILMS AND DOCUMENTS. THEY HAVE OCCASIONED LITTLE COMMENT OR CONTROVERSY. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE TV EVENING NEWSCASTS JULY 25 GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO IMMEDIATE POSTWAR DOCUMENTARY FILMS RELEASED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. SCENES SHOWN INCLUDED U.S. TROOPS LANDING AT URAGA IMMEDIATELY AFTER SURRENDER, MARCHING INTO YOKOSUKA RR STATION, OUTSIDE OPPAMA RR STATION, U.S. MILITARY LEADERS IN FRONT OF YOKOHAMA GRAND HOTEL IN SEPTEMBER 1945, MACARTHUR AT TOKYO HQS, U.S. TROOPS ON GINZA, AND DISARMING OF JAPANESE TROOPS.

2. JULY 26 MORNING EDITIONS OF ASAHI, MAINICHI, YOMIURI AND TOKYO SHIMBUN GAVE FRONTPAGE HEADLINE COVERAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASE OF SECOND BATCH POSTWAR

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DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS. NIHON KEIZAI AND SANKEI TREATED

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REPORT PROMINENTLY ON FRONT PAGE. IN ANALYZING THE 40,000 PAGES OF MATERIAL RELEASED, PRESS EMPHASIZED MACARTHUR'S ORIGINAL PLAN FOR DIRECT U.S. MILITARY RULE OF JAPAN AND THEN FOREIGN MINISTER MAMORU SHIGEMITSU'S ROLE IN PERSUADING MACARTHUR TO ACCEPT INDIRECT RULE THROUGH GOJ. OTHER MAJOR THEMES INCLUDED SECRET WORK BY GOJ LEGISLATIVE BUREAU ON CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SHIGERU YOSHIDA'S ROLE IN ARRANGING EMPEROR-MACARTHUR MEETING, THOUGH RECORD OF THEIR CONVERSATION WAS OMITTED FROM RELEASE.

3. COMMENT: SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE LATEST RELEASE. THAT WHICH HAS APPEARED SCARCELY WENT BEYOND URGING OTHER GOJ MINISTRIES TO RELEASE THEIR OCCUPATION RECORDS. FOR ITS PART, THE FOREIGN OFFICE PLANS TWO MORE RELEASES THIS YEAR.

4. THESE LATEST FILM AND DOCUMENT RELEASES REMIND JAPANESE OF DIFFICULT AND HUMILIATING YEARS. BUT THUS FAR, AT LEAST, MACARTHUR AND THE OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES ARE BEING PORTRAYED FAVORABLY. THAT ASSESSMENT RELATES LARGELY HOWEVER, TO THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT CERTAIN IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF LEADING JAPANESE POLITICIANS OF THE DAY.
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